

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SOUTHERN REGION SUPPLEMENT 03-2003
APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-313 and 10-314***

September 28, 2004

***Operations and Services
Marine and Coastal Weather Services, NWSPD 10-3
Marine Weather, NWSI 10-313 and 10-314***

COASTAL MARINE FORECAST SERVICES

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement supersedes Southern Region Supplement 03-2003 dated September 26, 2003, filed with NWSI 10-313 and 10-314. A hazardous weather impacts section has been added for the MWS.

Signed by September 14, 2004

Steven Cooper

Date

Deputy Regional Director

For

Bill Proenza

Director, Southern Region

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1. Description: This Supplement provides additional guidance and instructions for Special Marine Warnings (SMW) and Marine Weather Statements (MWS). Written instructions cannot address every situation. Operational personnel must exercise initiative and professional judgment to minimize risk to public safety and property in instances when written instructions do not provide appropriate guidance.
2. Special Marine Warnings. Reference Section 2.2.2 of 10-313.
 - a. Valid Time. SMW=s should be issued for local winds of 34 knots or greater that are expected to occur for 2 hours or less; and/or hail 3/4 inch or more in diameter; and/or waterspouts. For some weather situations, valid times of one hour or less may be more appropriate to provide users frequent updated information of rapidly changing convection. If conditions necessitate a valid time of the SMW in excess of two hours, a MWS should be issued throughout the event so the information for the users does not become out-dated (see section 4.c below).
 - b. Do not headline a SMW in the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF) product.
3. Marine Weather Statements. MWSs provide the public with detailed marine weather information to meet the needs of the mariner. MWSs use marine Universal Generic Codes (UGC) in the product. Specifically, MWS are used:
 - a. To Cancel a SMW. MWS=s should be used to cancel all or part of a SMW. (reference Sections 2.4 of 10-313 and 2.2.2 of 10-314)
 - b. To notify a SMW has expired. Issue a MWS to provide notice a SMW has expired (see Sections 2.4 of 10-313 and 2.2.2 of 10-314). Using forecaster discretion due to particular events, MWS=s can be issued for the last of a series of SMW=s, i.e. when the event is over, instead of when each SMW expires.
 - c. During a SMW. MWS=s or Short Term Forecasts may be issued midway through the valid period of a SMW, as time and staffing permit, to heighten the awareness of the potential hazard. (reference Section 2.2.2 of 10-314)
 - d. To discuss ongoing or expected hazardous weather. Marine Weather Statements should be issued to discuss ongoing hazards affecting, or expected to affect, the marine community (see Section 2.2.2 of 10-314). Such as:
 - the onset of dense sea fog,
 - the timing of significant wind shifts/cold fronts/squall lines,
 - general advanced notice of expected warning conditions in the next 24 hours,
 - strong thunderstorms just below SMW criteria,

- low water events,
- information regarding marine accidents or spills,
- and/or volcanic ash.

Additionally, include a call to action statement to promote marine safety.